

**Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir, Kechla, Dt. Koraput, Orissa**  
**Rainbow Group Report 2010-11 First Half**

Project work – Most of the topics are taught by undertaking project work. Most of the time, the children show a desire to learn about something. At this age, the whole group takes up the same topic. An environment for the topic is created by the teachers displaying charts, models and books for the children.



Transport – Unlike for town children, this is quite an abstract topic for the children, there being no vehicle in the village except a few cycles. Even though most of the children have seen motorised vehicles on their rare visit to Koraput town, they have never been inside a car and most have not sat on a motorcycle.

By this topic, children came to know about various ways of transportation - air, surface and water. The children then discovered the modes of transport and types of vehicles. They learnt traffic rules, roads signs, names for the drivers of different kinds of vehicles, like – captain of a ship, astronaut for a rocket, pilot for aeroplanes and helicopters, etc.

The evolution of the transport system was also taken up.

All the above was done with the help of stories, songs, games and books. The children made different types of transport vehicles with the help of origami, drawings, clay modelling, cardboard models, Mechanix, Lego blocks. The children made Zebra crossings on the village road put up road signs (even though there are no vehicles here!). The signs put up included – school area drive slow, left turn, right turn, No Horn Zone.

The topic culminated with an exhibition put up by the children.

Animals – We took up domestic and wild animals, land and water animals. Food habits of various animals. Habitat for domesticated animals like stable for horse, kennel for dog, cowshed, sty for pigs, etc. Also for wild animals like burrows for rabbits, cave or den for lions, etc. All this was taken up in Hindi and English both.

Names for babies of animals in English was taught.

The children discussed the uses of domesticated as well as wild animals. Most children have animals at home and they put up name signs where they keep these animals at home, (even though



there is no one in the village who can read these signs, besides the children themselves!).

The children walked through the forest and also through the village. They went to the reservoir



for observation also. The children used books and were told stories. They sang songs and also made some of their own songs. They made a zoo by making animals with clay models and paper models. They used some toys also. The children made a calendar of animals also.

To do the above the children did drawing, painting, cutting, pasting, origami.

Seasons – The four main seasons of our area – Summer, Winter, Monsoon and Spring were



taken up. Basic characteristics of the season, fruits and vegetables, what food to eat at what time, what clothing to wear, time of the year, festivals of various seasons were discussed.

The children collected fruits, vegetables and flowers that were there at that time. They made charts by painting in this topic.

Insects – Name of different insects in English and Hindi, their colour, size and shape, their food habits, ways of movement, their living environment. Differentiating between harmful and helpful insects. Body parts of insects were taken up. The life cycle of a butterfly. Difference between butterfly and moths. Social life of ants and honey bees. How to get rid of mosquitoes and flies. The children came to know that spiders are not insects but are Arachnids. What a



dung beetle does with the dung. How and why a spider make its web. Insects don't have bones or blood. Their life cycle and laying of eggs.

The children learnt the above with the help of discussions, books, movies, outdoor observations and stories. The children made drawings paintings, chart making, clay modelling, puppets, thumb painting, cutting and pasting, drama, Origami. The children put up a puppet show, dance and drama. The children made songs in English and Hindi on the qualities of insects. The following is the song made in Hindi based on the qualities of the insects.

Aao aao sare bache milkar khelenge (come all children, we will play together)

Milkar hum sab chhota sa ed ghar banayenge (we will make a small house together)

Chinti se hum ye sikhenge milkar kaise ranhenge (we will learn from the ants how to live together)

Saath chalenge, Khana layenge, milkar khayenge (we will go together to bring food and eat together)

Dragonfly se ye sikhenge keise udenge (we will learn from the dragonfly how to fly)

Pani mein hum dubki lagakar chidiya banenge (we will sink in the water and will be a bird)

Tiltli se hum ye sikhenge keise ras piyenge (we will learn from the butterfly how to sip the nectar)

Indradhanush ke pas ja kar rang layenge (we will go to the rainbow and bring colours)

Ladybird se ye sikhenge kaise madat karenge (we will learn from the ladybird how to help)

Phasal ko hum saph rakhege kide na lag ne denge (we will clean the crop and protect the crop from the insects)

Madhumakhi se ye sikhenge kaise shahad banayenge (we will learn from the honeybee how to make honey)

Sabko mitha shahad de kar sabka man ko bhayenge (fascinate all by giving honey)

Grasshopper se ye sikhenge kaise jump karenge (we will learn from the grasshopper how to jump)

Aage aage aage aage badhte jayenge (we will go forward without stopping)

Rhino beetle se ye sikhenge kaise yudh karenge (we will learn from the rhino beetle how to fight)

Chahe jite ya phir hare hum nehin darenge (we may lose or win but we will not afraid)

Gobraila se ye sikhenge kaise bir banenge (from the dung beetle we will learn to be brave)

Jitna bhi badha aaye hum samna karenge (we will face all the struggle)

Caterpillar se ye sikhenge kaise titli banenge (we will learn from the caterpillar how to become a butterfly)

Titli bankar ud jayenge phulon se dosti karenge (we will fly like a butterfly and be friend with the flowers)

Hun phulon se dosti karenge (we will be friend with the flowers )

Hum sabse dosti karenge (we will be friend with everyone)

In English children made a small poem about the butterfly;

Butterfly, butterfly why are you flying so high?

You go to the rainbow and pick some colour

To suck honey you sit on the flower

You go to the sky and talk with the cloud

You play with the Sun round and round

You come to be my friend and live with me for ever

We will sing, play and dance together  
 We will go to the garden and play with the flowers  
 We will gather some honey and suck together  
 In this topic the group facilitator made a song in oriya and the children danced  
 Children did an imaginary activity of role playing  
 If I were a butterfly.....  
 If I were a ladybird.....  
 If I were a dung beetle.....  
 If I were an ant..... , etc.  
 Children made the drawing of an imaginary insect and explained about that.



They also wrote five sentences in Hindi about their favourite insects.

The children also played different games on insects.

Freedom – The topic had an aim of children trying to be independent and imbibing self discipline.

The first thing that was done was to leave children free and asked them to take their own decisions. Children also discussed when they feel free and when they don't feel free. They also discussed what is the merit and demerit of complete freedom.

The concept of Freedom for the country was taken up. The Independence of India and the lives of Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, Rani of Jhansi, Sri Aurobindo were narrated. The characteristics of India's flag was taken up. The children learnt our National Song and National Anthem.

The children narrated the stories that they had learnt to children of other groups. They also did a drama of Mahatma Gandhi's truthfulness and honesty.

As it was Sri Aurobindo's Birthday, chil-

dren did a dance on the song of Sri Aurobindo for an offering.

Some children said about Sri Aurobindo, Mahatma Gandhi, and Laxmi Bai both in Hindi and in English.

They remembered the selected stanzas of the poem "BUNDELE HARBOLON KE MUHN" about Laxmi Bai.

Money and market – In this topic children learnt about a regular market and weekly market (Haat). Barter system, money transaction, money recognition.



Children put stalls and created an environment of market and role played as the shopkeeper and the other group children came as buyers to buy things. The children learnt money handling and also addition, subtraction and multiplication.



Everyday they used to finish their lunch very quickly just to arrange their stall. Children did this topic with lots of interest.

Language – By and large most of the children are able to read Hindi. Some of them have problems with a few half letters. Writing is a slower and tedious process and the children have different speeds, abilities and clarity. Reading and writing was not formally taught and children were only exposed to it.

We are still on spoken English. Most children can comprehend with ease. The children are encouraged to speak. Most children can speak sentences of day to day use and also create and tell stories. We are not exposing children to the script as the way one writes and the way one pronounces are quite different. We want them to first be able to speak before they learn the script.

Singing is one of the mediums of learning the language. The children know a huge number of Hindi and English songs. They also know some Oriya and Sanskrit songs. The children also do chanting at the start of the day.



We also play many language games.

Stories are also a medium for teaching languages. Stories are sometimes read, many a times the children look at the picture of a story-book and create a story before the story of the book is read. Many of the story telling sessions are interactive and the children also create their own stories and narrate.

Whenever the children have time, they go to the library, without being told, and read or go

through books.

Everyday the children watch English or Hindi movies for an hour to expose them to good pronunciation.

Mathematics – The children can recognise numbers up to 3 digits. They can add and subtract and can also do simple multiplication. The children can mentally add and subtract large two digit numbers. They can solve word problems. They can recognise currency and know how to transact in it. The children can identify shapes like hexagon, octagon, pentagon, diamond, etc and also know fraction of numbers.



Jigsaw Puzzles – The children are very enthusiastic to solve jigsaw puzzles. They have done up to 1000 pieces puzzles. Normally they can do puzzles which are recommended for an older age group, for example 7 years old solving a puzzle recommended for 12 and above.

Celebrations and festivals – We celebrated the annual day of the school, Sri Aurobindo's Birthday and Independence Day, Raksha Bandhan. On our annual day, 5th July, the children created and put up a play. On Sri



Aurobindo's Birthday the children presented a dance and also staged a play. On Raksha Bandhan they made Rakhis and staged a play related to Rakshabandhan. Sri Aurobindo's arrival day and The Mother's final arrival day were observed in the school.

Physical development – An hour between 4 pm and 5 pm is dedicated to physical development on a daily basis. The children do warm up, strengthening and agility exercises and also play minor games. They occasionally play football, touch-ball and other games also.

Meals – The children start the day with breakfast at 7:30 am, lunch at noon and snacks at 5 pm, just before going home.



Health and hygiene – We have been consistently working on cleanliness. The children often take a bath in school, always brush their teeth here and also wash their clothes. We administer medicines wherever required and take to the hospital if need be.



Character building and leadership – We are always working on traits like honesty, confidence, punctuality, sincerity, courage, sensitivity, discrimination between good and bad, etc.

Environment – The children are shown how to protect their environment. They plant trees, flowers and crops in school and are also given trees to plant around their village. They keep their surrounding clean and also are aware that they should not waste.



Visiting faculty – The children gained immensely from all those who came from outside and spent valuable time with the children.

Anna Maria from Holland was here in March-April. She helped the Rainbow group children to take initiative in spoken English. As a foreigner, she could not understand Hindi and children had no option but to communicate in English. She taught the children many rhymes —Baa baa black sheep, I see the moon, Doodle doodle do, Handy Pandey jack a dandy, I am a little tea pot, etc. She told them a lot of stories and helped children in their pronunciation.

Sulochana di was here in May with a group of Mirambika teachers and under her guidance Sashwati, Niharika, Deepti and Rabindra worked here for about two weeks. She guided us and interacted with the children. She had an interactive session with mothers of our children.

Niharika worked with this group of children in their project and taught them some nice songs.

With Rabindra children were singing with a lot of enthusiasm as he could play the dholak. Children were able to sing the songs with rhythm.

Surendra bhaiya did a lot of creativity activities with the children. He taught the children some Hindi and Oriya songs which the children sang with a lot of enthusiasm and the children also created some new lines in the songs “Aha tamatar bada mazedar”

With the Mother’s International School children this group did a lot of activities. Children painted fabric on a bed-spread and learnt many English songs. They listened to many stories and learnt new games. They went for walks and treks together. Our children took the MIS children to visit their village and homes. Darshana ma’am, together with children did many battery tests and made them play many games.

Ravi created an atmosphere for learning science. He made simple science toys with the children.

